



# JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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## 18th Century Conference at Smith

A fondness for superlatives, as friends have more than once pointed out, is one of your editor's weaknesses, especially when writing about his favorite 18th century topics. But everyone will agree that superlatives are really in order when describing the conference held at Smith College, January 17th and 18th, in honor of D. Nichol Smith. The planning was superb, the meetings never dull, the accompanying music and art well chosen, and the hospitality overwhelming. Everything combined to make it one of the most valuable and delightful gatherings this writer has ever attended.

The meetings began Friday afternoon, January 17th, with introductory remarks by the host, President Herbert Davis. Then followed three papers: W. S. Lewis on "Horace Walpole's Library"; A. Hyatt Mayor, curator of prints at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on "American Artists in Georgian England"; Marjorie Nicolson on "Voyages to the Moon." After an interlude of talk, talk, talk, came a large dinner, at which Chauncey Tinker and Nichol Smith were led to reminisce about 18th century studies. As if these were not delights enough for one day, a concert of 18th century music at the President's house brought the evening to a close. Under the direction of Ross Finney, a string orchestra and soloists played from manuscript many selections of 18th century composers, never before heard in this country.

The next morning opened with a leisurely view of an unusually choice collection of British 18th century paintings. Here were superb sketches and oils by Hogarth, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Wilson and lesser artists, loaned for the occasion by the Boston, Philadelphia, and Metropolitan Art Museums; by the Morgan Library and such private collectors as W. S. Lewis and Philip Hofer. Displayed to the best advantage in the Tryon Gallery, the pictures provided just the appropriate counterpart to the literary discussions.

Late Saturday morning Ralph Isham described some very important recent discoveries of Boswell Papers, after which there was a luncheon at the President's House with more talk. Why, Sir, everyone there was clubbable, and there's an end on't!

At the final conference in the afternoon George Sherburn spoke on "The Social Outlook of Henry Fielding"; Edgar Wind on "Grandeur & Wit in Reynolds' Portraiture"; and Katharine Balderston on "Johnson's Melancholia." This last proved to be a bombshell of the first magnitude (we trust you will soon see it in print), so that the guests started home arguing vehemently over a truly startling bit of analysis. But more of that another time.

Thanks are certainly due to Nichol Smith for coming to this country and being the inspiration for the gathering — and to Herbert Davis and the Smith faculty for arranging such a meeting. More evidence of the vitality and enthusiasm of 18th century research and criticism! Can't this conference be a model for others held elsewhere? Why not have more of these small group gatherings devoted to special fields, where active scholars, collectors, and art connoisseurs can meet, can live together for a day or so, and talk at length about the aesthetic and critical problems in which we are all so interested?

## News from Abroad

James Sutherland will retire as editor of the *Review of English Studies* after the April 1947 number; his successor to be John Butt.

During the next year both James Sutherland and Geoffrey Tillotson will teach at Harvard for limited periods: Sutherland for the summer term of 1947, and Tillotson for the Spring term of 1948.

R. W. Chapman indicates that he intends to push rapidly ahead with his great edition of Johnson's letters. Specimen pages are being set and actual printing will begin soon. If any readers know of manuscript Johnson letters or possible clues, do not delay in letting Chapman know.

Harold Williams writes that he has seen nearly all the proofs of the *Journal to Stella* and that the only serious obstacle which now remains is the index, itself over half done.

H. Teerink's new address is 11 de la Reystraat, Arnhem, The Netherlands. Several of our subscribers have taken advantage of his offer to supply copies of his edition of *The History of John Bull*, printed in Amsterdam in 1925. The price, you will remember, is \$3. If you, or your library, would like a copy, write to Teerink; then



when it is received send the \$3 to the *Johnsonian News Letter*, to be used to purchase for him in this country books and other necessary supplies.

It is good news to hear that L. F. Powell's index to the *Life* should by now be complete, and we hope the Clarendon Press will be able to get on with the printing as quickly as possible.

From P. Laithwaite in Lichfield comes a little brochure, *Dr. Johnson and His Dictionary*, written by John E. W. Wallis. This was the Presidential Address delivered at the Guildhall on 22 September 1945. Although with a few careless factual errors (Wimsatt points out mistakes on pp. 4, 11, 12, 16), it contains an interesting description of a volume of sermons by Robert South, marked and used by Johnson when engaged in preparing the *Dictionary*.

### Bibliography of Studies of British Newspapers

A very useful tool for 18th century scholars has just been issued by R. P. Bond and Katherine K. Weed in their *Studies of British Newspapers and Periodicals from Their Beginning to 1800 -- a Bibliography*. Its purpose is to gather together titles of secondary works which deal with newspapers and periodicals, not to list again the original publications. It is thus a guide to critical and research work on this very special topic. As a special number of *Studies in Philology* (not sent to regular subscribers of the journal) it may be secured from the Univ. of North Carolina Press for \$2.50.

### Isaac Reed Diaries 1762-1804

In a former issue we mentioned Claude E. Jones's edition of Isaac Reed's diaries (Univ. of Cal. Publications in English, Vol. 10). The greater part of the diaries consists merely of lists of plays seen and friends visited, and is thus important only for chronology. But occasionally there are accounts of people and events which are entertaining, and we cannot resist retelling one anecdote about Dr. Johnson: On 27 September 1786, Reed was visiting in Cambridge, where he heard some accounts of Johnson's incivility. Then Dr. Richard Watson repeated a remark by Johnson which deserved to be remembered, and for which he excused him all his rudeness.

"Speaking of the Addiction of Country Squires to Rural Sports and Diversions in preference to other pursuits, he said, 'Sir, I have found out the reason of it and the reason is that they feel the vacuity which is within them less when they are in motion than when

they are at rest." Would Johnson today direct his remark to golfers and other sports enthusiasts?

## A Bibliography of Modern Johnson Scholarship

As many of you already know, your editor has agreed to help Jim Tobin (now with Declan X. McMullen, publishers, 225 Broadway) compile a bibliography of research on Johnson, as a companion volume to those on Pope and Swift already issued by the Cosmopolitan Science and Art Service Co. It has been decided to make the Johnson number cover the sixty years (1887-1947), since the first appearance of Birkbeck Hill's edition of the *Life*. Most of the important scholarship will undoubtedly fall within this period; and, furthermore, all the really valuable earlier works can easily be found in *CBEL*.

Tobin has already collected titles of most of the articles in the well-known journals, and of the books brought out by regular commercial publishers. But we are still searching for references, articles, etc., in rare periodicals or in scientific, medical, art journals — and particularly for privately printed pamphlets and brochures. These last are the most difficult to find, and we hope all our readers will help as much as possible. If you have in your possession, or know about, any privately printed Johnsonian booklets, addresses, accounts of exhibitions, not already listed in the standard bibliographies, please send us the reference. Even though you may suspect we have the entry already, please take the chance of duplication, for only in this way can we be sure of relative completeness in the list.

## Miscellaneous Items

There were so many little errors in the last issue (Carelessness, Madam, pure carlessness!) that some sort of an apology appears in order. The misspellings, we trust, will be considered venial. But we must correct the reference to Fred Pottle and his new version of *The Idiom of Poetry*, where he is called a "positivist" in faith and morals, rather than an "absolutist." A positivist, in the strict philosophic sense, is just what he is not.

The Viking Press announces *The Portable Johnson and Boswell*, to be published in June. Edited by Louis Kronenberger, it will contain some of Johnson's most characteristic writings and "the best of Boswell's about him."



An important discovery of a hitherto unknown prologue by Johnson is announced in a letter to the *TLS* of 4 Jan. 1947 by Mary E. Knapp. Written in 1740 for a dramatic entertainment called *Lethe*, it was found in the Folger Library among the Garrick papers. Though not in Johnson's hand, the prologue is ascribed to Johnson by Garrick, and the lines do certainly have the Johnsonian ring.

## Work in Progress

### General

- ALDERSON, William L. (Reed). *Chaucer in the Early Eighteenth Century* (Nearly complete). D. (Univ. of Cal.).
- ANDERSON, Paul B. (Otterbein). *The Authorship of Three Anonymous Pamphlets: Character of the Rump* (1660), *Censure of the Rota* (1660), *Transproser Rehearsed* (1673). (An outline of the problem and summary of evidence attributing these to Butler will appear soon in *Studies in Philology*.)
- BRYANT, Donald C. (Washington University). *Minor Parliamentary Orators of the Age of Burke and Fox*. (To include Colonel Barré and others.)
- CARTER, William H. (Harvard). *Ut Pictura Poesis*. D. (Harvard).
- DAICHES, David. (Cornell). *A History of Scottish Literature from 1700 to the Death of Burns*.
- IRVING, W. H. (Duke). *Patterns of Wit in English Letter Writers*  
-- Howell to Cowper.
- KNOX, Norman (New York University). *The Idea of Irony as a Literary Device in the English Classical Period*. D. (Duke).
- KOCH, Dorothy Alden (Bryn Mawr). *English Theories Concerning the Nature and Uses of History, 1735-1791* (This is a doctoral thesis (Yale) which is being revised for publication).
- McBURNEY, William Harlin (Harvard). *The Economic and Social Influences upon the English Novel 1700-1740*. D. (Harvard).
- MOORE, Robert E. (Minnesota). *External Visualization in English Painting and Literature of the Eighteenth Century*. (A paper, read at the last MLA meeting, which will be expanded into a book)
- RUGGLES, Rebecca D. (Wisconsin). *National Patriotism in English Literature 1725-1750*. D. (Wisconsin).
- SUPER, R. H. (Michigan). *An Anthology of Restoration and Eighteenth Century Literature*.

THOMPSON, Harold W. (Cornell). *The Scottish Tradition in American Literature*: To include Ossian, Ramsay, and Burns. (Some material collected).

WASSERMAN, Earl R. (Illinois). *The Sympathetic Imagination in Eighteenth Century Theories of Acting*.

WILSON, Willard (Hawaii). *The Eighteenth Century British Actor* (This is a doctoral thesis (USC, 1939) which is being revised for publication).

Burke, Edmund

BRYANT, Donald C. (Washington University). *A Life of Edmund Burke* (In the preliminary stages).

Dryden, John

FRIST, William (Yale). *Dryden's Translations* (This is a doctoral thesis (Yale) which is being revised for publication).

MONK, Samuel H. (Southwestern). *A Study of Dryden's Parallel of Poetry and Painting* (To be completed this summer).

STALLMAN, R. W. (Univ. of Kansas). *Annotated Bibliography on John Dryden, Scholarship and Criticism, 1920-1945* (All material collected 1920-1942).

——— *John Dryden: His Reputation Today* (This is a doctoral thesis (1942) which is being revised for publication).

WARD, Charles E. (Duke). *John Dryden: a Biography* (Fairly advanced).

——— *Additions to the Dryden Canon* (Begun).

Edwards, Thomas

GILBERT, Vedder M. (Univ. of Toledo). *The Correspondence of Thomas Edwards 1736-1752*. D. (Cornell).

Godwin, William

POLLIN, Burton (Columbia Univ. T.C.). *William Godwin: His Educational Theory and Practice*. D. (Columbia Univ. T.C.).

Gray, Thomas

STARR, Herbert W. (Temple). *The Youth in Gray's "Epitaph" (in the Elegy)*.

——— *Gray's Influence on Trumbull*. A brief note.

Hamilton, William

BUSHNELL, N. S. (Williams). *The Life and Works of William Hamilton of Bangour, 1704-1754* (First draft complete).

Hogarth, William

MCORE, Robert E. (Minnesota). *Hogarth's Literary Relations* (Completed).

Montagu, Elizabeth

HORNBEAK, Katherine G. (Smith). *The Correspondence of Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu* (Huntington Library MSS. Three-fourths completed).

Parnell, Thomas

BARNETT, George L. (Indiana). *Thomas Parnell* (Material largely collected).

Pomfret, John

LEGGETT, Glenn H. (Ohio State). *The Life and Poetry of John Pomfret 1667-1702*. D. (Ohio State).

Pope, Alexander

PRICE, Katherine Rebecca (Yale). *Alexander Pope's Works in Europe*. A survey and bibliography covering twenty-three languages. D. (Yale).

— *A Critical Examination of French Translators' Treatment of Alexander Pope's Analogical Imagery, Diction, Rhetorical and Total Poetic Meaning* (About half finished).

Purney, Thomas

WASSERMAN, Earl R. (Illinois). *An Edition of Thomas Purney's Full Enquiry into the True Nature of Pastoral (1717)*. Augustan Reprint Society.

Rymer, Thomas

ZIMANSKY, Curt (Iowa). *An Edition of the Critical Works of Thomas Rymer* (This is an outgrowth of a doctoral thesis (Princeton, 1939) which is being revised for publication).

Swift, Jonathan

ELLIS, Frank H. (Yale). *Jonathan Swift and the Skeptical Tradition*. D. (Yale).

KELLING, Harold D. (Yale). *Swift as a Moral Critic of Literature*. D. (Yale).

Walpole, Horace

KILBY, Clyde S. (Wheaton College). *Horace Walpole as Literary Critic* (This is a doctoral thesis which is being revised for publication).

## Queries

C. R. Tracy (Univ. of Alberta) sends in the following three queries:



- (1) Where was Hall's Chocolate House? I have a reference to it in 1718, but I should like to know more.
- (2) Was there a Miser's Club in existence sometime between 1720-39? Savage wrote an epigram on a feast of misers, and I should like to know if there was a regular club.
- (3) Th. Keene took the role of Dioclesian at Lincoln's-Inn-Fields in 1716-18. What was the play? I can find no clues in Genest, Nicoll or Ward.

## Johnson and Equality

Bill Wimsatt (Yale) writes: "'Johnson's method in compiling the Dictionary,' says President Wallis in his Address to the Lichfield Johnson Society (described earlier in this issue), '...helps to explain...his immense stock of general information.' How many of the ideas which appeared in Johnson's later writing and conversation can be traced specifically to Dictionary sources? Doubtless an assiduous use of the alphabet would reveal a great many. Johnson's famous recommendation to the 'republican' Mrs. Macaulay that her footman be invited to sit down and dine with them was, for example, observed by Hill to have a parallel in a story about Lycurgus in a Dictionary source, Richard Allestree's anonymous *Government of the Tongue*. Allestree's passage, however, is not quoted in the Dictionary under any of its most conspicuous words. May I call attention to another Dictionary source which contains the same story in different words, Bacon's *Apophthegms* (No. 185, *Works*, 1740, iii, 281)?

When Lycurgus was to reform and alter the state of *Sparta*; in consultation one advised, that it should be reduced to an absolute popular equality: but *Lycurgus* said to him; sir, begin it in your own house.

This passage too would seem to have escaped inclusion in Johnson's Dictionary. But Johnson's Dictionary copy of Bacon's *Works*, 1740, in the Yale Library shows by the pencil underlining of the word *equality*, the vertical lines at beginning and end of the passage, and the marginal letter E, duly pencilled through by the amanuensis, that this passage was originally selected by Johnson for inclusion in the Dictionary. It was one of the many flowers of philology sacrificed in the end, as he laments in his Preface, to the need for abridgment. A comparison of his pencil work upon Bacon's *Apophthegms* with the relevant words in the Dictionary



shows that he made a similar sacrifice of many other original selections 'shining with sparks of imagination...replete with treasures of wisdom.'"

### New Books

Copies of Vol. X of A. L. Reade's *Johnsonian Gleanings* have at last reached this country. The volume may be purchased separately, and as a complete, chronological survey of Johnson's life up to 1740 it will be very valuable for scholars who do not have access to the rest of the set. Reade's address is Treleven House, Blundellsands, Liverpool, England.

Since *Mr. Review* -- *Daniel Defoe as Author of The Review* is written by our Asst. Editor, William Payne, we will do no more than to tell you that it will be published on 24 March.

Swift enthusiasts (who isn't?) will be delighted with Herbert Davis's *The Satire of Jonathan Swift*, three addresses given last year in England, now available in print.

We haven't yet seen W. H. Bonner's *Pirate Laureate*, the life and legends of Captain Kidd, but are certain that students of the late 17th century will find much in it to interest them.

### Hannah More and Her Circle

Mary Alden Hopkins, in her new biography, will undoubtedly introduce Hannah More to thousands of new readers. Here is a smoothly written life, designed to appeal to the general reader, yet based on a thorough study of all the available evidence. Scholars, to be sure, will wish that the new discoveries had been more completely documented, and that more had been quoted from the great mass of unpublished manuscripts which Mary Alden Hopkins has turned up. For, as she indicates in her Acknowledgments and notes, there is a wealth of unpublished letters scattered about in public libraries and museums, in various historical collections, and in the hands of private collectors, all of which she has studied. The next step, we hope, will be a modern, accurate edition of all these letters, or at least of all that have any literary or historical interest. Such an edition would be of great value to all of us working in the period.

One matter, discussed in the notes, deserves to be more widely known. The standard authority on Hannah Moore has been William Roberts' *Memoirs* (1834); yet from a comparison with existing

manuscripts of many of the letters here first printed, it becomes obvious that Roberts "edited with abandon, eliminating and altering sections of the letters, and even changing dates to achieve unity of subject and time." This should serve as one more warning that we cannot depend on 19th century editions for accurate transcriptions of subject matter, and not even for chronology. And the moral — Trust no old printed source but find the manuscripts! How many otherwise excellent Ph.D. dissertations have been based on doctored and fabricated evidence, because the scholar has relied on books in the library and has not been told of the necessity to search further for the truth.

### Some Recent Dryden Scholarship

Rejecting Mark Van Doren's assertion that "Annus Mirabilis" was merely an "ambitious official compliment," E. N. Hooker, in an article in the *Huntington Library Quarterly* for November 1946, declares this piece of "inspired journalism" was a reply to three treason-breathing pamphlets bearing the same title as the poem. Dryden called upon Londoners to pay "their loyalty and obedience to their annointed leader." In the larger sense "Annus Mirabilis" was not a mere panegyric to London, as is commonly accepted, but rather is "an eloquent panegyric to trade, and a noble proclamation of Britain's manifest destiny."

Hoyt Trowbridge in "The Place of Rules in Dryden's Criticism," *MP*, November 1946, rejects Saintsbury's charge that Dryden, in his criticism, wavered between rules and taste. Dryden's "literary evaluation was a process of rational judgment which determined the merit of works and writers by the application of probable rules." Trowbridge also differs somewhat with Bredvold on the sources of Dryden's scepticism.

Sister Mary C. Hoefling has just published *A Study of the Structure of Meaning in the Sentences: of the Satiric Verse Characters of John Dryden* (Catholic Univ. Press).

It is hoped that Samuel Monk's bibliography of recent Dryden scholarship, in the series under the general editorship of J. E. Tobin, will be published late this spring.

### A Potpourri of Recent Articles

For your convenience here are a few articles appearing during the past few months: Katherine E. Wheatley, "The Relation of Edmund Smith's *Phaedra and Hippolitus* to Racine's *Phèdre* and Racine's



*Bajazet*," *Romanic Review*, Dec. 1946; R. M. Williams, "The Publication of Dyer's *Ruins of Rome*," *MP*, Nov. 1946; Ernest C. Mossner, "The Continental Reception of Hume's *Treatise*, 1739-1741," *Mind*, Jan. 1947; R. M. Myers, "Fifty Sermons on Handel's Messiah," *Harvard Theological Review*, Oct. 1946; R. M. Wallace, "Fielding's Knowledge of History and Biography," *SP*, Jan. 1947; H. W. Starr, "Gray's Craftsmanship," *JEGP*, Oct. 1946, and "Trumbull and Gray's Bard," *MLN*, Feb. 1947.

Another of W. S. Lewis' delightful essays, this time about the joys of book buying, appears in the February *Atlantic*. Every Johnsonian will enjoy "The Bookseller as Teacher."

### News from China

Grace M. Boynton writes from Peiping, China, of her return to Yenching University after six years' absence. "My professional library," she adds, "was saved by the help of a devoted friend, and the University loss of books is not as serious as we feared.... I find our Western Language Department full of students; we have almost fifty majors, all of good calibre I am told. We are probably better off in the matter of staff and books than any of our sister institutions; so there is much work to be done and great enthusiasm for the doing of it." Although nothing was said about it, we suspect that off-prints of articles and books on 18th century topics would be welcomed by the Yenching Univ. Library, for use by the eager advanced students.

### Other News Items

Peter Pineo Chase has sent us a copy of a recent radio broadcast on Station WEAN, Providence, Rh. Island, dramatizing the "Mystery of Saint Kilda," or how disease came to the people of that desolate island, how Johnson pondered over the puzzle, and how modern science has solved it.

In February Finley Foster delivered an address, "James Boswell Is No Puzzle" to the Cheshire Cheese Club in Cleveland. He wrote of his expectation of having "some fun with the Macaulayites in the group." Perhaps we may see the talk soon in print.

On his recent visit to the Univ. of Chicago D. Nichol Smith lectured on Johnson and on Burns, and gave a seminar on the History of English Literary Scholarship.

We have from C.A. Miller two bound mimeographed talks delivered in Chicago - one on the Literary Club, the other on Charles James Fox.

